

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C

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NBC BRIEFING

3 April 1957

SOVIET WARNINGS ON PERIPHERAL ATOMIC BASES

- I. Moscow is hitting back hard at prospective deployment of US atomic-equipped units in striking distance of Communist territory.
 - A. Reflects real apprehension over long run enhancement of US striking capabilities.
 - B. Moscow also giving heavy play to alleged aggressive implications this US move.
- II. USSR has now given public or private warnings to practically all states aligned with US that acceptance US atomic unit bases invites nuclear destruction.
 - A. 21 March note to Norway was first formal warning--followed by those to Denmark and UK. (Wonder when Turkey coming?)
 - B. Soviet diplomat told Haile Selassie "USSR would be compelled to destroy" any US nuclear air bases in Ethiopia in event of war, and "then where would Ethiopia be?"
 - C. [REDACTED]
 - D. [REDACTED]
 - E. of US atomic bases in Saudi Arabia would prejudice possibility of peace in Middle East.
 - F. Soviet Ambassador formally warned Greek foreign minister on 2 April that if Greece were used as a base for atomic weapons, it would suffer devastating retaliation by this means. If it were not so used, it would not be attacked by atomic weapons.
 - G. East German premier Grotewohl, on 3 April, threatened "counter-measures" against the placing of US atomic weapons

III. Moscow has issued several warnings this year that it will retaliate against such aggressive military planning by strengthening the Warsaw pact, a counter threat designed to strengthen the Soviet quid pro quo position on withdrawal of forces from Europe.

IV. So far, most recipient governments have been irritated rather than impressed by these Soviet threats.

A. Greek foreign minister Averoff told the Soviet ambassador that threats had never been a successful instrument of diplomacy in dealing with Greece and that today NATO membership provided it with the strongest defensive support it ever had.

B. Popular reaction may be more receptive to the Soviet attempts at intimidation and this is the main target. A Soviet

25X1C diplomat [REDACTED] that Moscow hopes to alarm the populations in Greece, Turkey, Iran and Japan, and thus make such atomic bases political anathema.